

Abstract

AUTOMATED VISUAL IMAGE EDITING SYSTEM

Disclosed is a method of editing a video sequence (100) comprising a series of clips (01, 02, 03 ...), in which each clip has a determinable duration. Characteristic metadata (104) associated with each clip is extracted (102) from the sequence, the characteristic data including at least time data related to the corresponding clip duration. The characteristic data is processed (118) according to at least one template (124) of editing rules to form editing instruction data (126), the editing rules comprising at least a predetermined cutting format configured to form edited segments based on a plurality of predetermined segment durations. The video sequence (106) is then processed (edited) (130) according to the editing instruction data to form an edited sequence (134) of edited segments (001, 002, 003, ...). Also disclosed is the creation and placement of insert titles by examining at least the time data (104) for each clip to identify those of clips that are associable by a predetermined time function, the associable clips being arranged into corresponding groups of clips (Fig. 8). At least one of a beginning and a conclusion of each group is identified as a title location and at least one title location, at least one of the corresponding time data and further data are examined (206) to generate an insert title including at least a text component whereupon the insert title can be inserted into either the original video sequence or the edited sequence at the title location. Also disclosed is a method of extracting a first number of individual images from the video sequence comprising a second number of individual clips. The sequence (100) is divided (256) into segments corresponding to the first number, there being a substantially equal number of the segments divided from each clip. For each segment, a plurality of video frames are identified (258) within a predetermined portion of the segment and the frames processed (260) to select a single representative frame. The representative frames are associated to form the extracted images (Fig. 7).